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DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

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20. The highest-placed Yugoslavian in the network (although he would probably deny the Yugoslav tag, preferring to be a Croatian), is further known as "BRAGANOVIC". At various times, BRAGANOVIC has been accused of working for the following intelligence services:

Italian IS
Yugoslav IS
Soviet IS
[redacted] line (as chief)
"an American Agency in the PM field"
[redacted] Rome
French IS
Various IS
a World Council of Churches spotting mechanism
Yugoslavian IS (unofficially)

21. An [redacted] report, of 12 February 1957, gives perhaps the most substantiated information on BRAGANOVIC, and is paraphrased herewith FBI. Dr. Kresimir BRAGANOVIC is a Croatian Catholic priest in the monastery of San Gerolamo, Rome. The man has for some time now been associated with Yugoslav elements in Italy and, while in many instances it is hard to distinguish the activity of the Church from the activity of one man whose personal convictions might lie along certain lines, it is fairly evident in the case of BRAGANOVIC that his sponsorship of the Yugoslav cause stems from a deep-rooted conviction that the ideas espoused by this arch-nationalistic organization, half clerical, half fanatic, are basically sound concepts. Father BRAGANOVIC is a native of Travnik, where he finished his elementary and secondary school. Shortly after 1922 he went to Sarajevo to study theology and philosophy. Here he fell under the personal tutelage of Dr. Ivan SARKIC, who had some good connections in the Vatican. Having completed his studies at Rome, where he went under the auspices of SARKIC, whose personal interest he had become, he returned to Sarajevo where he held various political offices, all of minor importance. His Vatican studies encompassed ethnology and Balkan affairs. Shortly after the formation of the Independent State

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

FILE NO.



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DOCUMENT TRANSFER AND CROSS REFERENCE

SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT		DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION	
[REDACTED] NETWORK, CAST OF CHARACTERS		1. FILE NO.	2. DATE
		3. ORIGIN OF INFO. SYMBOL NO.	4. DATE
5. ANALYST	6. DATE PROCESSED	7. SOURCE CRYPTONYM	8. DATE OF INFO.
		9. EVALUATION	
		10. DISSEMINATED IN	11. DATE

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12. of Croatia under Ante PAVELIC in April 1941, DRAGANOVIC became one of the leading figures in the Bureau of Colonization. In the middle of 1941, however, he became involved in a disagreement over the relative merits of the younger Eugen VAFER, whom he called a "madman and a fanatic", and he left Croatia and returned to Rome. It is believed that his departure from Croatia to Italy is a classic example of "thinking a man upstairs" in as much as it is fairly well established that the leaders of the Croatian state expected the priests, through his good connections with the Vatican, to be instrumental in working out the orientation of Croatia toward the West rather than the East. These same leaders, being ecclesiastical-minded and knowing full well that Croatia's militant Catholicism made her a "natural" in such a deal, relied on DRAGANOVIC to assist them in their aims. He was eminently successful. Many of the more prominent Ustashi war criminals and collaborators are living in Rome illegally, many of them under false names. The Ustasha cells are still maintained, their papers still published, and their intelligence agencies still in operation. All this activity seems to stem from the Vatican, through the Monastery of San Giovanni, to Parma, the chief Croatian camp in Italy. Chief among the intelligence operatives in San Giovanni appear to be DRAGANOVIC and Monsignore Miliakic. [REDACTED] ran a CX operation on the Monastery. It was established that the Monastery was honeycombed with Ustasha cells; was, in fact, a fairly important refuge for Ustasha suspects (i.e., war criminals). "In order to enter the Monastery one must submit to a personal search for weapons and identification documents, must answer questions as to where he is from, who he is, when he knows, what his purpose is in the visit, and how he heard about the fact that there were Croats in the Monastery. All doors from one room to another are locked and those that are not, have an armed guard in front of them and a password is necessary to go from one room to another. The whole area is guarded by armed Ustashi youths in civilian clothes and the Ustashi code is exchanged continually." I closed my visit with diplomatic notes, made almost daily trips between the Monastery and the Vatican. The strong implication of trials of the various Ustashi leaders to the Vatican seems to be that "the Vatican, undoubtedly looking on the strong anti-communist feelings of the West, is endeavoring to infiltrate them into South America in any way possible to postpone the spread of Red doctrine."

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SUBJECT OF DOCUMENT		DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION			
NETWORK, CAST OF CHARACTERS		2. RI FILE NO.		3. DISPATCH OR SOURCE DOC. SYMBOL NO.	
		4. DATE <i>12 Dec 52</i>		5. SOURCE CRYPTONYM	
5. ANALYST		6. DATE PROCESSED		7. DATE OF INFO.	
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PERTINENT INFORMATION					
14. The best ground information in the above report is generally coming from an ex source, but the specificity of the Ostasi movement's use of the military area, of course, peculiar to the report. 23. BRACONOVIC was considered the Ostasi Group's affair in 1944 during the war. Immediately following the war he was instrumental in setting up an organization called the "Ostasi Group" which was used to obtain funds from the Red Cross, and other similar organizations, for the purpose of educating Ostasi refugees in North America, primarily Argentina. The work of Ostasi Group apparently included the training of these immigrants to these refugees, since many of them were officially listed as war criminals for their collaboration with the Nazis, and would not migrate under their own names. 24. The charges that BRACONOVIC was a member of the KIS have been largely discredited as having been investigated as a form of reversal in the political situation. The charges have resulted from simply taking the knowledge of the Soviet Government as a list of refugees to be used in the being part of a Soviet intelligence gathering activity, using the name of BRACONOVIC. None of the charges was ever proved. 25. Soviet reports state that BRACONOVIC was used by the Russian Ministry of Defense as an informant of their Foreign Office.					
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14. Several reports also state that DRAGANOVIC was used by the French IS, one report naming him as an agent of the Bureau de Documentation of the SDVCE (Service Documentation Interarmes et Contre-Espionnage) which had the dual function of gathering intelligence and engaging in CI work. This last information is evaluated as [REDACTED] (b)(3) (b)(6) 15. The [REDACTED] connections of DRAGANOVIC are more hazy, but there is the statement that he was chief of an [REDACTED] rat-line. Although the report mentioned did come from [REDACTED] it is not an operational one, but rather a report of information gathered from other sources. There is no comment on the veracity of this information. [REDACTED] Bonn, investigation failed to uncover any contacts DRAGANOVIC might have had there. DRAGANOVIC did pass along information to [REDACTED] with the understanding that it was going to an Allied intelligence service. There is an indication that KUBARK also received some DRAGANOVIC information, but through [REDACTED] (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3) 16. A number of DRAGANOVIC's most trusted henchmen, including PAINE and REHAK, were later proved to be members of the Yugoslav IS, and a KUBARK WFOES report stated that the YIS had succeeded in controlling DRAGANOVIC's activities through use of its own agents, who used the cover of Serbian refugees. 17. Two reports state that DRAGANOVIC was in contact with the World Council of Churches office, to which he gave leads on refugees to be "aided". The files on DRAGANOVIC's referants were kept separately in the office of the Chief of the WCC mission. 18. During World War II, reports stated that DRAGANOVIC was often reported wearing the uniform of a Ustashi soldier, and was responsible for massacres and the forcing into labor battalions of Orthodox persons. He was vice-chief of the Ustashi (non-ecclesiastical) office for the colonization and distribution to Ustashi of property taken from Orthodox persons to assign them to the ranks of the [REDACTED] (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3)			
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		3. SOURCE CRYPTONYM	4. DATE OF INFO.
		5. ANALYST	6. DATE PROCESSED
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PERTINENT INFORMATION	
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11. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] attempted a liaison with [REDACTED] and his Croatian group, but was rebuffed. He then established a movement called the Croatian Independent Movement, which intended to liberate all Croats abroad. It was actually a [REDACTED] movement, evidently, because the ruling committee was chosen at a closed meeting attended by only [REDACTED]. This group was, in its turn, rebuffed by the [REDACTED] Union in favor of the [REDACTED] group.

12. ADSE reported that [REDACTED] made several trips to Salzburg and [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] representatives of the Society of Croats in Austria. He is said to have brought gold to Austria for refugee camp purposes. (It is assumed that, among the others contacted, [REDACTED] met with [REDACTED] during these trips.)

13. [REDACTED] had an uneasy reputation for his work among the Croatian refugee camps in Italy. One report stated that he was gathering 25,000 [REDACTED] from refugees against the promise of aid for their migration. He attempted political conversions during periods of camp inactivity, heard confessions and labeled as communist anyone who should not confess to him, thus barring them from leaving the camp.

14. [REDACTED] is reported to have been in contact with the [REDACTED] organizations in Spain, as well as with [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] student organization there.

15. [REDACTED] is further reported to have been approached to join the "Fascist International" to be formed in Austria.

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